

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 14, 20, 22, 26, 27, 37 and 48 contain allowable subject matter. However, for the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully assert that all claims are allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-13, 15-19, 21, 23-25, 28-36, 38-47 and 49-52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over GB 2,302,092 (GB-092) in view of GB 1,485,388 (GB-388), and Reichert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,710,404). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither GB-092, GB-388 nor Reichert, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a powder of coating composition that includes a metal phosphate or a metal borate in an amount of 1-30 wt.% when added to the composition pre-homogenisation or during homogenisation and in an amount of 0.5-10 wt.% when it is added to the composition by post-blending, as recited in independent claim 1.

Specifically, the Office Action admits that GB-092 and GB-388 failed to recite a stabilizing additive that includes metal phosphate or metal borate (Office Action, page 2, lines 8-9). Moreover, Reichert teaches a solvent-free coating composition that is useful for increasing the corrosion resistance of a surface and that includes a solvent-free coating material, and an anti-corrosive agent comprised of a mixture consisting essentially of magnesium oxide and zinc oxide with or without calcium oxide (Abstract). However, Reichert does not teach or suggest an amount of 1-30 wt.% of metal phosphate or metal borate when added to the composition pre-homogenisation or during homogenisation and an amount of 0.5-10 wt.% of metal phosphate or metal borate when it is added to the composition by post-blending. Reichert teaches the use of metal phosphates and metal borates only as possible additives in order to prevent substrate corrosion. Accordingly,

Reichert is not designed to address the problem of increasing durability of metallic coating compositions, and Reichert does not identify a feature in its disclosure that would teach the ordinary person skilled in the art to select a particular type of additive in the amounts specified in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Reichert fails to cure deficiencies in GB-092 and GB-388 in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of independent claim 1. As such, any combination of GB-092, GB-388, and Reichert would not result in a powder coating composition that includes a stabilizing additive including a metal phosphate or a metal borate in an amount of 1-30 wt.% when added to the composition pre-homogenisation or during homogenisation and in an amount of 0.5-10 wt.% when it is added to the composition by post-blending. Support for the feature of 1-30 wt.% of metal borate or metal phosphate during pre-homogenisation or during homogenisation and 0.5-10 wt.% in post-blending can be found in the specification at, for example, page 10, lines 8-22.

Thus, because it would not have been obvious to combine GB-092, GB-388, and Reichert to arrive at the claimed invention, independent claim 1, and its independent claims, are patentable over a combination of GB-092, GB-388, and Reichert. As such, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-52 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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